

“Having a Real Faith”

Genesis 15

Comment [h1]:

Job 33:14,18 “God speaks again and again in dreams and in visions at night when the deep sleep falls....as people lie on their beds. He opens their ears in times like that, and gives them wisdom and instruction.”

Two poetic images about God:

1. He is our shield.
2. He is our great reward.

Stages of panic:

1. “I know God will take care of me.”
2. “I think God will take care of me.”
3. “I hope God will take care of me.”
4. “Ain't no way God will take care of me.”
5. “I don't know how he did it, but God took care of me!”

Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Ephesians 3:20 “He is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us.”

Romans 8:31 “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Mark 9:23 “All things are possible for those who believe.”

Romans 4:18-21 “Against all hope, Abraham, in hope, believes and so became the father of many nations just as it had been said to him, so shall your offspring be. Without weakening his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead, since he was about 100 years old, and Sarah's womb was also dead, yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God has the power to do what God has promised.”

James 2:14-24 “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.”

What real faith is not:

1. It is not just something you say.

James 2:14 "What good is it my brother if a man claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such 'faith' save him?"

2. It is not just something you feel.

James 2:15 "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him 'Go, I wish you well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?"

1 John 3:17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

James 2:17 "In the same way, faith by itself if it's not accompanied by actions is dead."

3. It is not just something you think.

James 2:18 "Someone will say 'You have faith,' I have deeds."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Any time a person becomes a Christian he becomes a new person inside; the old things have passed away. All things become new."

4. It is not just something you believe.

James 2:19 "You believe that there is a God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder!"

5. It is – something you do.

James 2:20-23 "You foolish men. Do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar. His faith and his actions were working together. His faith was made complete by what he did. Scripture was fulfilled when it said, 'Abraham believed God.'"

2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith."

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, for a life of good works God has already prepared for us to do."